



Rejoice and
be Glad
This is
the day
the LORD
has made;
We will
Rejoice
and be
Glad in it.
- Psalm 118:24



Christmas Tea Is Coming
Save the Date
Saturday, December 7
See page 3 for more information!

Inside this issue

Church Calendar for October.....	2
Updates & Opportunities.....	3
Children's Ministry/Awana.....	4
Awana Crazy Hat Night.....	5
Article by Jack Hibbs.....	6
A Women's Heart.....	7
Church Happenings.....	8-11
Youth Group.....	12-13
A Word from Pastor Greg.....	14
Mission of the Month.....	15



Church Calendar for October

October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6 p.m. Elder's Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana		6-8 p.m. Fellowship Night	9-11:45 a.m. "Trauma Training"
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lord's Supper Biblical Conflict Resolution after church 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship 7:00 p.m. The Nest	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana		Mission Trip to La Courte Orielles Youth Fall Fest	Mission Trip to La Courte Orielles Youth Fall Fest
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mission Trip to La Courte Orielles Youth Fall Fest	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study		6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana			7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
"Let's Do Lunch" Biblical Conflict Resolution after church 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6 p.m. Elders Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana			
27	28	29	30	31		
6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church	6 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6-7:30 Awana			

Updates and Opportunities



October 4th 6pm - 8pm
Join us for:
Worship, Games,
S'mores, Fellowship!
Bring your Lawnchairs
+ Beverages!



Mission of the Month for October/November—Operation Christmas Child

As we draw near to Thanksgiving please remember those children who are very needy and have never heard of Jesus! Fill a shoe box or a box from OCC with small toys, school supplies, or personal hygiene items and OCC will add a brochure about Jesus in their own language. You can also fill a box on line at [Build Your Shoebox Online! - Operation Christmas Child \(samaritanspurse.org\)](http://Build Your Shoebox Online! - Operation Christmas Child (samaritanspurse.org)). Please enclose \$10.00 for shipping and handling. **More information to come.**

Save the Date for our annual Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7



Let's celebrate the wonder and miracle of God with us!

Come for fellowship, fun, great food and inspiration.

Please prayerfully consider who you may bless by inviting them to this special time.

More information to come.



Join us for the Nest

Tuesday October 8 @ 7 p.m.
Fellowship, snack, paint rocks.
Come and bring a friend!



Men's Breakfast: Save the Date

Save the date for Saturday, October 19 at 7:30 a.m. at church for our men's breakfast. All men are invited for a time of food, fun, and fellowship! Please contact Chris Matula or Chet Kamark with any questions!



Come and join us October 20 at Pizza Ranch (5450 W. Integrity Way)

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can spend some time eating and enjoying fellowship with one another.

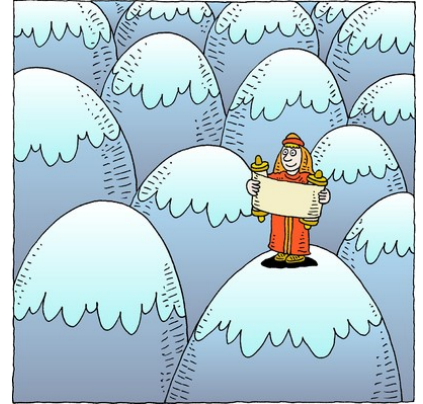
November 17 December 15



What's Happening in Growing God's Way Children's Ministry



The children will be learning about God's judgment through the experiences of Jonah & Nahum. They will also learn about how God's people were taken captive and that every person matters.



HE Cares
For THOSE
WHO Trust
IN HIM
NAHUM 1:10

Join us for...

**Awana
CLUBS**

Cubbies
Ages 3-4

WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:30

T&T
Truth &
Training
Grades 3-6

Sparks
Grades K-2

Puggles
Ages 2-3*

*Puggles is for Leader's children only

Awana has officially started! We have a great group of clubbers and leaders this year and we are looking forward to lots of faith, fun, and fellowship together. September 25th was CRAZY hat night and we saw some really great hats! Hats off to all our leaders who came in crazy hats too! (See page 6 for pictures) Coming up in October, we have Sports Night on October 9th and Noah's Ark Night (dress like an animal) on October 23rd. If you know of someone who would still like to join Awana, registration is on our church website. For more information about Awana, contact Pam MacDonald at appletonawana@gmail.com.

Church Happenings—Awana Crazy Hat Night



Jack Hibbs: The Church Can No Longer Dispute The Unprecedented Hostility Toward Truth



John 15:20 – *“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”*

Christians argue about the lateness of the hour regarding the prophetic calendar, but the church can no longer dispute the unprecedented hostility toward truth.

Now is the time to stand strong and confront the cancel culture crowd flexing its muscles. Patriotic symbols are in their crosshairs. They’ve deemed Dr. Seuss controversial and classics inappropriate. Will it be long before your Bible is banned because they find it offensive?

Bullies love to prey on the weak. As a kid, I learned that the best way to deal with a playground bully was to let him know he didn’t intimidate me. It often meant a fight, but I got left alone whenever I took the initiative and refused to back down.

Jesus’ parting words directed His disciples to go into all the world, and 2,000 years later, His commission remains. He calls us to step into the public arena, knowing we’re guaranteed the same hostility Jesus received. But don’t let that stop you. The gospel of Jesus Christ is what this culture needs. Their claims of being “woke” are unfounded. The truth is that they are spiritually comatose and in need of awakening to the peril bearing down on them.

We are at a pivotal point. I urge you to champion the Word of God. Put away the distractions competing for your time and attention. Strengthen yourself in the Bible like never before.

It is time to live fearlessly. Walk and do and speak like you’re confident that you’re going to Heaven—because you are!

Jack Hibbs is the senior and founding pastor of [Calvary Chapel Chino Hills](#), the Founder and President of [Real Life ministry](#), and a nationally syndicated TV and Radio host.



“When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.” Psalm 94:19

Have you ever felt like this? I sure have! Just wanting to hide from life.

There are times when things just seem to be too much. The world appears to be spinning out of control and people are contentious and combative. Violence is rising, driven by hatred. No one listens and insults are flung around in careless abandon. Wrong appears to be rewarded and good stifled. It makes me want to sit in a corner with a box over my head!

As tempting as this image may be to me, I know it's not why I'm here. My heavenly Father, Who sees time but operates without its limits, has assigned this part of His timeline to me. Over and over in the Bible we are told to live today, don't worry about the future but live in the day we have been given.

How? When things seem so jumbled and ugly. The writer of Psalm 94 wondered the same thing. He asked, “Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve! O Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult?” (vv. 2-3) Isn't that what we wonder too? How long are things going to go on like this, it's not supposed to be this way, where are You?

Then, in the following verses, the psalmist remembers Who God is and what He has done. He recalls “When I thought, “My foot slips,” your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.” (v. 18) This memory is followed by, “When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.” (19)

Maybe you are feeling like putting a box over your head. With anxious thoughts multiplying and fears ballooning we sometimes just want to shut it all out. That's not a bad idea. In fact, when we shut everything out our next choice should be to focus in on God alone. We are told in today's verse it is possible to find so much consolation from the Lord that we can experience delight, not defeat or dread. Remembering Who God is the first step.

He is our shield, our hiding place, our champion. He is good, He is love, He is our protector. He is the Creator, He is in control, the King of the Universe. He sees us, knows us, hears us and is aware of every single thing that concerns us. He cares so much that He knows how many hairs are on our head.

We can also remember all God has done. The Bible is filled with facts about the ways God took care of His people, amazing victories against staggering odds. There are answers to prayer for needs and desires. There are instances of miraculous provision and deliverance. Above all there is God's salvation plan through Jesus that was finished when He rose from the dead.

There are probably things you can see that God has done in your own life. Remembering these things can bring us consolation when we are tempted to throw in the towel on life. We can look to the future with hope when we remember that God has made promises about what will be coming. Our great hope is the return of Jesus to bring things into order and there will be peace at last.

So, maybe go ahead and put that box over your head and get quiet with God as your focus. He promises to delight your soul. Then, get up, take that box off and live your day in the strength, hope and light of God.

From Mary for your Women's Ministry Team

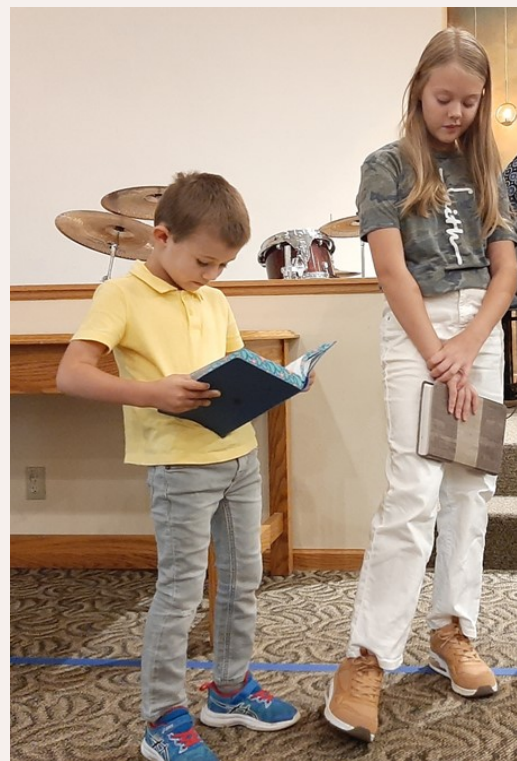
Church Happenings—Playground Equipment

Thank you Nate Schauland for welding our playground equipment. Thank you also to IVI, Coonen Mechanical & SI Metals for the supplies & equipment. Special thanks to Dean, Andrew, Ted, Darrell, Kayla, Jesse, Pete and Tim for coming early Saturday morning to help get the final piece up for the playground.



Church Happenings— Bible Sunday & Children's Church

Bible Sunday—Bibles given to those children going into Kindergarten & 6th grade. Congratulations Adalay, Tabitha, and Callum.



Children's Church



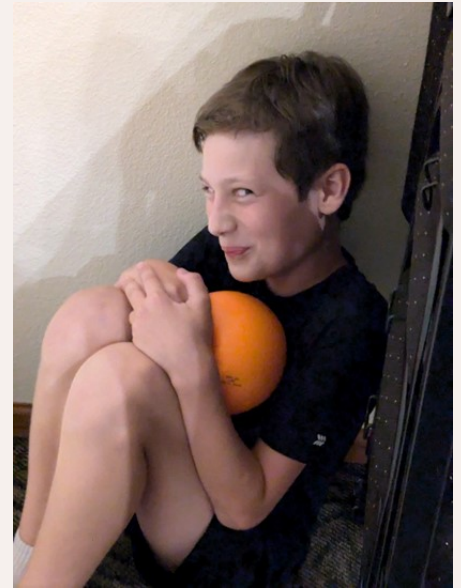
Church Happenings—Youth Christian Skate Night at Skaters Edge



Church Happenings—Youth Christian Skate Night at Skaters Edge



Church Happenings—Youth Group





YOUTH GROUP: If you are in middle or high school, join us Sunday nights from 6pm-8pm. We meet at church, unless otherwise posted.

WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

This past month, we launched a new study focusing on relationships. Relationships can be hard; navigating friendships, understanding God, managing boundaries with parents, and exploring romantic connections are all key aspects of this stage of life. Each week, we will dive into a different type of relationship and explore what God has to say about each one. In addition to our new study, we went to Skaters Edge for Christian Skate Night!

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, October 6	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Friday, October 11	4:30pm	Church	Fall Fest Drop Off
Sunday, October 13	3:00pm	Church	Fall Fest Pick Up
Sunday, October 13			<i>No Regular Youth Group</i>
Sunday, October 20	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, October 27	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ADALEE MACDONALD



Grade: 7th

How long have you been attending youth group at ACEFC? 1 year

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? 15 years? I am going to be a photographer.

Favorite thing to do in your free time? Jumping on the trampoline.

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

What is your favorite memory from Youth Group? I liked doing the outdoor scavenger hunt.

What is your favorite athletic activity and why? Acrobatics because I am good at it.

Tell us how you came to know Jesus as your Lord & Savior: Hi, I'm Adalee! I grew up in a Christian home and went to church on Sundays for as long as I can remember. When I was in Cubbies at AWANA, I accepted Jesus as my Lord & Savior.

What has God been teaching in the past year? God has been showing me that there is always more to learn about Him and that things aren't always easy and conflict happens. God has shown me that it is important not to get mad at God over the things that happen, but to continue to seek Him through challenges. Youth group is a perfect place to learn about God and hang out with friends.



***Maintaining Our Focus:
In The Midst Of Constant Distractions,
God Provides Us With Principles & Priorities
That Protect Us From Becoming Overwhelmed!***



“We’re living in an extremely fast-paced society where one of our greatest challenges might very well be **information overload.**” There are many times when I’ve either heard others say this or I’ve personally repeated it myself. While I readily acknowledge that there are plenty of other personal issues and concerns that often grab our attention, I think it’s wise for us to realize that paying close attention to the 24/7 news cycle can become distracting, disturbing, discouraging, or disheartening.

But that doesn’t mean it’s something we should avoid! Instead, we should learn how to respond or react in a proper manner with the guidance of the Lord and His Word!

One of the first things I’d like to point out is that God’s Word encourages faithful followers of Christ to be reasonably well-informed about the major events happening in our world. This motivates us to pray in a more specific manner for our families, our government leaders, our church, our pastors & church leaders, missionaries, and others who might be important to us. Please consider what Ephesians 6:18 teaches, “With all prayer and petition, **pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, **be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.**” It shouldn’t need to be repeatedly emphasized, but prayer should always be a top priority. Too often it seems as if the fast-paced routine that tends to control our schedules can squeeze our time for prayer out of our daily agenda. Usually this isn’t intentional or planned, but it can develop into a habit caused by failing to establish the priority of praying at regular intervals thru-out the day. **Being too busy to pray probably means we’re too busy!!!!** Colossians 4 reminds us to **devote ourselves to prayer** and 1 Thessalonians 5 instructs us to **pray without ceasing!**

Since it does seem that God desires us to be informed enough to guide us in our prayers, it’s also a benefit to understand what Scripture teaches us about worry, anxiety, and fear. Philippians 4:6–7 is a well-known passage that many people find helpful, encouraging, and straight to the point. **It also exhorts us to pray and warns us about becoming so distracted by life’s challenges that we can’t think straight.** It says, “**Don’t become controlled by anxiety**, but **always through prayer** and petition with gratitude **let your requests be made known to God.** Then **the peace of God**, which is beyond our understanding, **will protect your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**”

Finally, we can gain some additional guidance from Hebrews 12:1–3. “**Therefore, since we have so many biblical examples of people who had faith in the Lord, let us also lay aside every hindrance and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, focusing our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**” What is this powerful passage trying to tell us? Here are three things for us to consider. {1} Even though there are many examples of faithful people in the Bible, we all should desire to be more like Jesus! {2} When we find ourselves distracted or overwhelmed by the circumstances of life, let’s remember that the race we’re running is a marathon, not a 50-yard dash! {3}, Keeping our focus on what Jesus accomplished for us in His sacrifice and victory over death will provide us with the spiritual energy and encouragement we need to endure and remain strong!

With praise for God’s grace and prayer for His glory,
Pastor Greg

Mission of the Month— Chris & Carrie Davis



August greeted us with a lot of 'new'. I was put in charge of overseeing our student leader's meeting. Every other week, we meet with our student leaders to help encourage and equip them to go talk to their teammates about Jesus and ultimately disciple them. So, I've been busy putting together a teaching plan for the semester that gives a biblical framework for what discipleship and spiritual multiplication looks like... Who knew that discipleship is rooted in the Lord's command to Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply.

Carrie's team looks a little new this year as their previous leader moved and changed roles. Technically, they are operating as a team of three, without a director. Interestingly enough, Carrie has to FIND someone who she will report to. Despite missing their previous director,

they are still getting things done; supporting those overseas and others who are headed overseas. She will go to Orlando in a few weeks for a conference.

Caitlin started middle school which meant new school, new schedule, new classes, teachers, friends, activities (she's playing the violin) – even the direction we drive every day has changed from last year. Luckily, her love for all of this hasn't changed - too much.

For the first time since starting elementary school, Nate is being dropped off by himself – which is very new for him but he seems to like it. Both are still doing cross country and we're looking for another new activity to keep them moving between the end of the cross country season in October and track in February.

What also hasn't changed is our appreciation for you. Thanks again and have a great fall.

Chris & Carrie Davis



Join us March 1 - March 8, 2025 to Lake Charles LA, to help with disaster relief efforts after hurricanes and floods damaged many homes. If you are interested in going with the team and want more information, please join us **after church on October 6 for a short meeting**. If you can't attend, contact Tim 920-851-9803 or Sue Diestler 920-851-3104 for more information.



Our mission here at Appleton Community EFC is to lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ

Growing together in Christ we value:

Biblical Truth

We depend on the Bible as our source of authority in what we believe, what we teach, and how we live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Worship

We believe that we are created by God to worship Him. Therefore, we live in worshipful response to God's character and activity. (Psalm 86:11)

Prayer

We believe that daily prayer is essential in the life of a believer and as such we pray with expectancy knowing that God is actively involved in our world. (Colossians 4:2)

Evangelism

We believe in sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with honesty and humility. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Fellowship

We believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)

Encouragement

We believe we are responsible for caring for and encouraging one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



Appleton Community
Evangelical Free Church
2490 West Capitol Drive
Appleton, WI 54914

Church Office Hours
Closed Mondays
Tuesday—Friday
8:30 - 2:30

